



CJH 12/15/97

Retired Public Employees Association, Inc.

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Cynthia Wilson, President Stanley Winter, Executive Director

December 12, 1997

Cash Management Policy and
Planning Division
Financial Management Service
Room 420
401 14th St. SW,
Washington, DC 20227

Dear Sirs:

The Retired Public Employees Association is a member supported organization of New York State and local governments, and their spouses.

We have reviewed the draft material on electronic funds transfer and in general find the program is a good one and support its aims. However, we find that in two areas the program can work a hardship on poorer and handicapped seniors.

Individuals who have an account at a financial institution and will receive payments after July 26, 1996 should be allowed to request a waiver, the same as those who were recipients of federal payments prior to. The fact that someone has a bank account, does not necessarily mean that they have easy access to that institution. They may be handicapped, home-bound or live in remote areas and find getting to a financial institution difficult, if not impossible. They need the flexibility of using their funds the best way they can.

We are also concerned that many of these same people, who live from check to check, may find it an absolute necessity to take any bank balance to zero without running the danger of having their account closed. In short, we are afraid of a one size fits all program.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Stanley Winter
Executive Director

SW:md

cc: The Congressional Delegation

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